

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00505 222228Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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R 211310Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6942
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: TAGS: EPAP, PINS, MZ
SUBJECT: HUNTING GUN POSSESSION TO BE LEGAL IN MOZAMBIQUE AFTER
JUNE 1

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE GPRM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED THAT AS OF JUNE 1, 1978 HUNTING WOULD AGAIN BE LEGAL IN MOZAMBIQUE. SHOOTING OF WILDLIFE WILL BE ALLOWED FOR SPORT, FOOD AND PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY HOWEVER, A LICENCE WILL BE REQUIRED AND RESTRICTIONS ON LOCATION AND TYPE OF GAME WILL BE PUBLISHED BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. COMMERCIALIZATION OF GAME MEAT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED, NOR WILL ANY HUNTING BE ALLOWED DURING THE MONTHS OCTOBER THROUGH MARCH, EXCEPT FOR PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. THE ANNOUNCEMENT SPECIFIED THAT KILLING ENDANGERED SPECIES WOULD NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE LEGAL.

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2. COMMENT: THE REINSTATEMENT OF HUNTING HAD BEEN RUMORED FOR SOME TIME AND MEETS SEVERAL NEEDS. FOOD, ESPECIALLY MEAT, HAS BEEN SHORT IN RURAL AREAS. AND POACHING WAS ALREADY A PROBLEM. BECAUSE OF THE PROHIBITION ON HUNTING FOR THE PAST THREE AND A HALF YEARS. SOME SPECIES OF ANIMALS (SUCH AS BUFFALO) HAVE MULTIPLIED RAPIDLY

AND HERDS HAVE HAD TO BE THINNED BY WILDLIFE OFFICIALS. FINALLY
SPORT HUNTING IS A SOURCE OF BADLY NEEDED FOREIGN EXCHANGE
ECONOLOGISTS WORKING FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT TOLD EMBASSY THAT
THE DECISION WAS CAREFULLY RESEARCHED AND POSES NO THREAT TO
MOZAMBIQUE RICH WILDLIFE RESOURCES IF PLANNED SAFE GUARDS ARE
ENFORCED.

3. ON IMPORTANT IMPLICATION OF THE DESISION IS THAT THE PRIVATE
POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, BANNED SINCE SEPTEMBER 1974 WILL AGAIN BE
PERMITTED. POLICE OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TO LOCAL BUSINESSMAN (AND
FORMER AVID HUNTER) THAT THOSE WHO PROPERLY REGISTRED THEIR GUNS
IN 1974 WILL BE ALLOWED TO RECLAIM THEM, PROVIDED THE GUNOWNER
POSSESSES A HUNTING LICENSE AND REGISTERS HIS GUN WITH THE
GOVERNMENT.

4. MODIFICATION OF FIREARMS LAW COINCIDES WITH OTHER SMALL BUT
SIGNIGICANT SIGNS THAT THE GPRM IS RELAXING INTERNAL SECURITY
RESTRICTIONS. WITHIN THE PAST THREE MONTHS AIRPORT WAITING ROOMS
HAVE BEEN OPENED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, THE ROAD PAST THE RADIO
CLUB (SITE OF PORTUGUESE SETTLE ANTI FRELIMO UPRISING IN SEPTEMBER 19
74
HAS BEEN REOPENED TO TRAFFIC, ADVANCE PERMISSION IS NO LONGER
REQUIRED FOR RECREATIONAL BOATING, AND THE NUMBER OF SOUTH AFRICAN
LICENSE PLATES ON MAPUTO STREETS HAS INCREASED.

5. PERMISSION OFRNON RESIDENT HUNTING IS ALSO THE FIRST OFFICIAL
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STEP TOWARD REOPENING MOZAMIQUE TO FOREIGN TOURISM. WHICH HAS BEEN
DISCOURAGED UP TO THIS POINT.

DE PREE

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